Mr. M. P. Cherian.—I went to several of their factories.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.— Excepting probably a few interested persons who got scent of your going, my information is that the others were not present.

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—I did not keep my visit a private one.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—What was the nature of the work that the Excise Commissioner did there?

Mr. M P. Cherian.—He enquired about the reliability of the several tenderers. We wanted to pick up one who will be able to supply us with good salt.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.— The Excise Commissioner went there to enquire about the reliability of the tenderers and not about the quality of the salt.

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—The reliability of the men as also the quality of the salt.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.— Can you not ask them to furnish security?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.— The security may be furnished. What shall we do if they are not going to supply us salt?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.— Was it the custom of the department to go to the locality and personally enquire about the solvency or otherwise of the tenderers?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.— This is only an experimental measure.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ.—സെൻട്രൽ ഫാറത്തിൽ ഈ ഉപ്പ് പരിശോധിച്ചു നോക്കയുണ്ടായൊ?

Mr. K. Krishna Warriar.—We tested the samples and also the sample that was available in the bazaar. I find that the sample is superior to Bombay salt in point of colour and in point of purity also.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ.—സാമ്പിൾ അയച്ച ഉപ്പ് തന്നെയാണോ പരിശോധിച്ചത്?

Mr. K. Krishna Warriar.—The sample was sent by the Agricultural Inspector, C. K. Taluk.

Cultivation of tobacco in the State.

43. **Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(1) whether tobacco is grown anywhere in the State;

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(2) if so, the approximate acreage under tobacco cultivation and the approximate value of the produce;

(3) whether the Superintendent in his survey report of the Eruttempadi Village has said that good varieties of tobacco may be successfully cultivated on a commercial scale in the Chittur Taluk?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—(1) No

(2) No answer is necessary in view of answer to (1).

(3) The Superintendent has stated as follows:—

"It is understood that good varieties of tobacco may be successfully cultivated on a commercial scale in Eruttempadi and some other villages of Chittur Taluk".

Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar.—May I know whether the Superintendent of Agriculture has agreed with the view expressed by the Superintendent of Economic Survey?

Mr. K. Krishna Warriar.—No experiment has been made yet.

Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to carry on an experiment in an experimental scale in view of the views expressed by the Superintendent in his Economic Survey Report?

Mr. K. Krishna Warriar.—The question can be considered.

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—I may inform the House that there was an application for permission to cultivate tobacco from the Chittur Taluk.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Was not tobacco cultivated in the Central Farm?

Mr. K. Krishna Warriar.—No.

Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar.—Am I to take it that they will consider applications to cultivate tobacco and give permission for the same?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—Provided they satisfy all the conditions laid down, we have no objection to grant permission.

Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar.—But anyway, as an experimental measure will they give permission to cultive tobacco?

Mr. M. P. Cherian.—It is a matter affecting the revenues of the State and so they must satisfy all the conditions.

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